

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Paragraph 29, beginning at page 12, is amended as follows:

[0029] **Figure 4** shows a flow chart showing one embodiment of a buyer's interaction with the Internet-based auction facility. The buyer locates the site by inputting the auction facility identifier (block 600) into the client program 30 running on client machine 32 (see **Figure 2**) which transmits the auction facility identifier (block 610) through the Internet 34 (See **Figure 1**). The Internet-based auction facility receives the transmission and (block 620) a listing server 16 (see **Figure 1**) generates a broad list of available categories of items stored in items table 42 (see **Figure 2**) for the buyer to select from. The auction facility 10 (block 630) transmits the category list and transmits an interface, which can be presented by a page server 12 (see **Figure 1**), to allow the buyer to enter search criteria which may be independent of the category list. The buyer selects a category preference from the category list or generates a search criteria (block 640). The buyer then transmits (block 650) the category preference or search criteria, again, through the Internet 34 (see **Figure 1**). Upon receipt of the category preference or search criteria, the auction facility uses a search server 20 (see **Figure 1**) to generate an item index page of relevant offerings including visual indicators displayed in respect to items in which the seller is allowing a buyer to buy the item at a pre-auction seller determined price (block 660). The item index page is transmitted to the buyer (block 680). After receiving the item index page (block 670), the buyer generates a request for

an item to purchase or bid on. Picture servers 14 (see **Figure 1**) can also be used to show the buyer pictures (if available) of the item. The buyer's request is then transmitted (block 20 200).

Paragraph 36, beginning at page 16, is amended as follows:

[0036] **Figure 6** provides an exemplary embodiment of the user interface 500 created at block 110 in Figure 3 to relay offering options to the seller and collect information on the seller's item. The user interface 500 includes a description (513) that describes an exemplary "Buy It Now" feature that provides gives the seller the option to allow a buyer to buy the item at a pre-auction seller determined price 514.